

THE NEWS OF EUROPE.

EFFECTS OF THE GERMAN EMPEROR'S SPEECH TO HIS BRANDENBURGERS.

THE BERLIN RIOTS—PROSECUTING THE PRESS—THE EMPEROR'S HEALTH—THE FRENCH MINISTRY—THE SATURDAY CASE—MR. GLADSTONE'S RETURN—THE COAL STRIKE—THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE—GOVERNMENT BY CLERKS.

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London, March 5.—Perhaps never before has any speech by any man in a great public position elicited a disapproval so universal as that of the German Emperor last week to his faithful Brandenburgers. Ten days have passed, and the ill impression then recorded deepens day by day. The riots in Berlin were an expression of it. They are, and for a good reason. The Berlin mob is one of the roughest in Europe, but the Berlin police are rougher than the Berlin mob. No civil force in Europe is so military, and none uses the sabre and its horses' heads so freely. The mob has nothing to do but to get out of the way. No mob leader has appeared. There has been no organized violence. Now, for the first time, there are signs of organization, though there is not a known or a visible leader. The riots lasted three days. They did not subside till the leaders, who were weary, had become convinced that it was useless to persevere. They are thought to have retired to perfect their preparations, and to wait for a more convenient season.

A mob, however, is at best only a mob. The Emperor has the sympathies of Europe with him in putting it down, even though it was clearly meant as a protest against a speech which has the sympathies of no sensible or reasonable man. The protest of the German press is a very different matter. It has been general. It may be called, Germany's vigorous, where a slight display of vigor in printed speech may mean and often does mean months of prison to the speaker. Yet at all risks the press speaks out. We should think the criticisms mild enough, but the meaning of them is clear; and were there doubt of their meaning, their unanimity would make it clear.

The Emperor, it is equally clear, is amazed that such low persons as journalists should presume to differ from him, and to express hostile views of his august utterances. He is not lacking in a wild kind of courage, and his first answer to these press critics is to order the prosecution of the leading paper of all Germany, "The Cologne Gazette." It was not easy to find any technical ground for such a prosecution. The article in which the Emperor's speech was discussed was perfectly temperate, even friendly, and full of respect for the great man's good intentions. But the editor omitted to assume, we are told, that His Imperial Majesty's after-dinner oration had been delivered under the advice of a responsible Minister. That is enough. There is a legal basis for an accusation of insult to the dignity of the sovereign. Another journal is to be prosecuted for quoting some rather strong remarks of a London paper. A third is prosecuted for an academical essay on Imperial oratory. A fourth is prosecuted for something else. They all come under one head, known in the German tongue as *majestätsbeleidigung*—the identical offence for which a housemaid at Dresden was this week sentenced to three months' imprisonment. Apologists of the Emperor say that it is not he who puts the criminal lawyers at work. He may or may not give in each case the specific order, but the spirit which directs these proceedings is his.

One other first fruit of the Emperor's indiscretion has been seen in the Prussian Parliament, where the Government has been beaten by a coalition between all shades of opposition. This is that very coalition which Count von Caprivi, in debate on the Reduction bill, lately denied as impossible.

Meantime, alarm, amazement and vague apprehension are spreading through Germany. "What will he do next?" is the question which the good German is asking about his ruler. It is a question to which no answer is possible. There are disquieting rumors about the Emperor's health, even about his mental health. They have a certain foundation. It is known privately that the state of the Emperor's health occasions anxiety in his own family. The malady which affects his ear grows worse, and not better. Abscesses form, and until they break cause acute pain, and it is during these paroxysms of pain that he says and does most of those things which frighten his friends.

You will remember that some of the French papers published a story, last year, that the Emperor, during his yachting cruise in Norway, had become insane. French papers are not good authority in German matters, and it is not true that he was insane. What is true is this: He had slipped on the deck of his yacht and injured his knee, and was confined to his berth for some days. It is his custom to take much violent exercise. The pain in the ear is kept under in this way. It is tolerable so long as he can spend half the day in the saddle. If he cannot, it becomes intolerable. The abscesses are dangerously near the brain, and the balance of the mind is perhaps affected when the agony is greatest. So, though the Emperor was very far from being mad, he did at that time say things which startled those about him, and perhaps lent some color to the stories then current.

The French Ministerial crisis lasted just thirteen days, during which M. de Freycinet was three times asked to resume his post as President of the Council, and three times refused. M. Ribot was not asked. M. Renvier failed because he included M. Constans in his proposed Ministry, and one main object of this crisis was to exclude M. Constans, whose expulsion is resented by large classes. M. Bourgeois failed because M. de Freycinet would not serve under one of his former colleagues. M. Loubet succeeded because neither of these difficulties hampered him. It is for all practical purposes the old Ministry minus M. Constans and plus M. Loubet, and it has started off well.

The Radicals, with M. Clemenceau at their head, were at first disposed to overthrow the new Ministry, if they could, at once. They still suspected some secret understanding with the Pope. But M. Ribot said plainly that there had been no negotiations with him. If the Cardinals will not act on the spirit which animated the Pope's recent encyclical, there need be no new Clerical question till the time comes for dealing with the great question of the abolition of the Concordat and the separation of Church and State.

The Radicals in their papers described it as a Ministry with a mission to impose on France the policy of the Pope, a description which, perhaps, some of them really believed. The power of Radical credulity is great. The gossip of the boulevards, who are omniscient, told you the Ministry would be upset the first day it met the Chamber. They came within 250 votes of being right, that being the figure of the Ministerial majority. They carried, in fact, a success of the whole Chamber, 341 votes. This majority was due partly to the Radical perception of the fact that the country is tired of seeing Ministries overturned in sport, partly to the good impression which M. Loubet made, and partly to M. Ribot's clever handling of the Clerical difficulty. M. Loubet's declaration, indeed, covered the Clerical ground. The Ministry will adhere to the Concordat and enforce it.

The decision of the Supreme Court in the Say-ward case provoked little comment here, and, as far as I have seen, of a hostile kind.

Nobody has suggested that the court had any other motive than to determine the issue according to law. Nobody here doubts that the questions between the two countries will be fairly dealt with by arbitration.

Everybody, his opponents included, rejoices to see Mr. Gladstone again in the House, full of vigor and health. The atmosphere changes with his coming, and respect for parliamentary tradition is revived on the front Opposition bench, and is enforced on the Radicals below the gangway, or on most of them. Mr. Gladstone has other weapons at command than jeers, and he has that authority over the great body of his followers which Sir William Harcourt has not. He still thinks, as Wellington did, that the Government of the Queen must be carried on. He accepted, therefore, in principle, Mr. Kalfour's proposal to take private members' meetings for the Government, a proposal which few lances like Mr. Labouchere, and people with crochets like Mr. Cremer, wished to resist. Mr. Labouchere did, in fact, resist. He renounced the leadership of his leader, and lectured Mr. Gladstone on his ignorance of what had passed during his absence and of the enormities the Ministry had been committing. This somewhat unseemly spectacle diverted the House and provided the Ministry with the unusual majority of 222.

Having thus sat handlessly on his unruly support, Mr. Gladstone bethought himself that it was the duty of the Opposition to oppose, and he proposed a scheme for suppressing the slave trade in East Africa, and opposed it with tremendous energy. His opposition sprang from no reminiscence of those days when the slave trade enriched his family. He declares himself now against trading in slaves, but thinks no real inducement to that industry could be expected from building a railway between Mombasa and Victoria Nyamira. The Ministry asked for \$100,000 to survey the road. Not a penny, said Mr. Gladstone, if I can help it. He complained that evidence for or against the railroad was not forthcoming. Yet in the absence of such evidence he wished to "state in the most explicit manner that I, for one, am determined to exempt myself by my declaration of tonight from every jot or tittle of responsibility for this undertaking." This redundant emphasis has become habitual to him in old age.

At the bottom of his opposition to this measure, as at the bottom of his policy of settling out of Egypt, seems to lie that pharisaical and sentimental horror of bloodshed which he has more than once avowed and on which he has more than once acted to the grave detriment of his country's honor. Neither this horror nor his unwillingness to spend money on experiments against the slave trade, is shared by the House of Commons. The Ministers carried their proposal by 98 majority. Sir William Harcourt may console himself with the reflection that none of the mistakes of his brief tenure resulted in a Ministerial majority equally large.

Those who pin their faith to bye-elections ought to regard the result in the Chertsey division of Surrey as significant. There is no gain nor loss of a member on either side, but a Unionist is returned by 1,338 majority, which is within a hundred of the majority in 1885, and much more than either side expected. If, therefore, there be any reaction in the country in favor of Home Rule, or against the present Government, it does not seem to have reached Surrey. This is a moral which it does not suit the Gladstonian orator to draw. The organ thinks silence a sufficient comment.

What is called the coal strike, now fixed to begin next Saturday, has novel points. The effects of it on some of them precede the cause. The more expectation of a strike has produced a panic, and coal has risen within a week \$2.50 per ton, and the public who have given away to a panic it is in a state of extreme nervousness. It is a strike in which neither miners nor owners have as yet the least reason to join. The public, with its imagination stimulated by cold weather, became convinced that there would be no coal after March 12, and flooded dealers with orders. Coal merchants have since pointed out that the Miners' Federation, which organizes this strike, includes less than one-third of the whole number of miners; that the remaining two-thirds produce more coal than the Federation can supply; and that the coal which is not supplied by the Federation will be supplied by the other two-thirds. The strike, therefore, in order to limit production and to keep up the prices of coal to a level which will keep up their wages. The owners reap, thus far, all the benefit of these proceedings. They have sold off their stocks of coal at 40 per cent advance; they will have no wages to pay while the strike lasts, and they will have a fresh demand when the strike is over. The miners and their families meantime will be living on strike pay, which will not supply them with champagne, nor pay for cockfights, nor even feed their children.

Lastly, a third set of men, who are neither miners nor mine-owners, profit more than both these classes. They are the coal dealers of London, who form a ring against which the public is powerless. It is, perhaps, no great matter that the well-to-do public should be fleeced to enrich a corrupt combination of coal merchants. What does matter is that the poor are robbed, and that a point is soon reached in such times as these where they can be robbed no more because they have no more. Privation then means suffering, illness, and often death. Graver still is the menace to great industries, to manufacturers, railroads, and other concerns of which coal is the life. Scores of thousands of workmen are already under notice that after next week there may be no work for them. If the strike were really put in force and succeeded, traffic would come to an end, the gas supply would be stopped, and the streets would be filled with starving people. For none of all these things do either miners or owners seem to care. The gospel of selfishness is the one last openly preached and most steadily practiced in all these trade disputes.

The attack on the Duke of Devonshire, of which I gave a brief account last week, ends in complete failure, and with much discredit to the authors of it. The inside history of it is even more curious than what has come to the knowledge of the public. It is unpleasantly clear that behind Mr. Wemyss Reid, who began this onslaught, was Mr. Gladstone himself. Mr. Reid is not a man of the world, and he allowed himself to be used while omitting to secure the right to use the evidence on which he brought his charge. He is no expert in controversy, and he landed himself in a dilemma from which there was no escape. He said just enough to make it a logical certainty that his informant was Mr. Gladstone. Then, when called upon to admit or to deny, he can do neither, and has to take refuge in evasion.

It is the good Gladstonians who are most angry with Mr. Reid. Indeed, nobody else is angry at all. He is said to have shown Mr. Gladstone's letter to the writer in "The Times" who signed himself "Gladstonian," who thereupon saw the Duke of Devonshire. The Duke, as his manner is, took

it all very coolly. If Mr. Gladstone said that Lord Harrington asked at least one person if he would serve under him in 1886, that statement must be denied. The person he asked was Mr. Gladstone, and the object of the question was to convince the Queen that Mr. Gladstone was the only possible Prime Minister.

Then Sir William Harcourt came on the scene, offering to give his testimony as to the falsity of the charge that Lord Harrington had tried to form a Ministry behind Mr. Gladstone's back. The offer was declined, but Sir William seems to have written to Mr. Gladstone as if innocent of all knowledge of his chief's share in the story, entreating him to contradict the credulity of Mr. Wemyss Reid. This is a pretty well-digger, what little credit "The Speaker," Mr. Reid's paper, had, and left Mr. Reid in a predicament which deserves the compassion of all charitable souls.

The beauties of officialism are well illustrated by the result of the negotiations between Mr. Tate and the Ministry. Mr. Tate is a wealthy man with a collection of pictures. He offered to give the pictures to the nation and \$400,000 for building a gallery if the Government would find a site. The discussion between him and the Treasury has dragged on for many months. It ended with Mr. Tate's refusal to grant a site which Mr. Tate thought himself able to accept, and he has withdrawn his offer. This is one of those circumstances which lead the observer to wonder whether this great nation will ever become tired of being ruled in all things, great and small, by knots of permanent clerks incapable of taking any but purely departmental views. G. W. S.

THE LONDON COUNCIL.

LORD ROSEBURY AND JOHN BURNS ELECTED BY BIG MAJORITIES—WILL THE RESULT HELP GLADSTONE?

London, March 5.—The triennial elections to the London County Council which came off to-day were the cause of unusual bustle at an early hour. Supporters of the opposing candidates were astir by 6 o'clock in the morning, engaged in distributing handbills, canvassing voters and attending to other services for their leaders. The polling proceeded quietly throughout the morning. The bulk of the votes recorded were cast in the afternoon, owing to the Saturday half-holiday of the industrial classes. One hundred members of the Eighty Club worked as volunteer canvassers. The counting in a few districts has been postponed till Monday. But the results already known show a sweeping Progressive triumph in the proportion of three to one, which the results still to come will not alter. Lord Rosebury and John Burns, the labor leader, are elected by large majorities. South London has gone solid for the Progressives. The political nature of the struggle, the candidates being openly dubbed "Liberal" or "Conservative," promises strongly to influence the Parliamentary general elections. If Mr. Gladstone is able to capture the seats for London he will be assured of a majority. About thirty-seven Progressive candidates and seven Conservative candidates are already known to have been elected. The Duke of Norfolk (Moderate), Lord Carrington and Montagu (Progressive), and the Rev. Canon Cook (Conservative), Messrs. Bruce, Cooper and Sidney Webb, have all been returned.

THE SHOEMAKERS' STRIKE ENDED.

LEICESTER'S BIG CO-OPERATIVE FACTORY—IT IS THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD.

London, March 5.—The strike of the shoemakers in Leicester has been settled, and the 3,000 men who went out of the factories will now resume work. An interesting fact in connection with the shoe trade of Leicester is that in that town is situated the largest co-operative boot and shoe factory in the world, which was recently opened for business. The factory stands on a site of 4½ acres, having ample room for extension. It is three stories in height, 100 yards long and ninety yards wide, and the rooms are not only spacious, but admirably constructed as regards light and ventilation. The buildings cost £200,000, and when completely fitted with machinery the total outlay will amount to £250,000, while £200,000 capital will be required to operate the concern. Two engines of 100 horse-power drive the dynamo for the electric light and supply the motive power. About 1,500 work people were employed at the start, and the factory will produce about 50,000 pairs of boots and shoes a week.

SHARP WORDS FROM BISHOP IRELAND.

Rome, March 5.—In speaking to-day of the appeal of some Catholics to the United States from the division of the Archbishops in reference to the proposed Catholic Congress in Chicago at the time of the World's Fair, Bishop Ireland, of St. Paul, who is now in Rome, said: "The whole matter is a tempest in a teapot. Anybody may send a letter to Rome on any subject. Whether the communication receives attention, however, is quite another question. The letter sent by Messrs. Dunne, Rippe, Kuhlmann and others will not create the slightest ripple in the stream of current Roman ecclesiastical thought. There are waste-baskets in Rome as well as in the United States. The idea is absurd that an appeal by a few dissenting, self-concerned men against the decisions of the Catholic Congress will be listened to in Rome. The Catholic Congress, from the very name it bears, must be directed by the Catholic hierarchy, or else be a Congress of Dunne and the others, and nothing more. They are free to hold a congress of the kind in our free country, but in Rome no voice could represent the Catholic hierarchy of America."

MANY POLITICAL ARRESTS IN GREECE.

Paris, March 5.—The "Eclair" to-day announces that 500 of the partisans of M. Delandras, the late Greek Prime Minister who was removed from office by the King, have been placed under arrest. The "Eclair" adds that the members of the Delandras Ministry are being closely watched.

IN MEMORY OF PRINCE ALBERT VICTOR.

Ottawa, March 5.—Mr. Abbott has caused a circular letter to be addressed to the several Lieutenant-Governors of the Dominion transmitting a printed circular from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, covering copies of two communications received by the Home Secretary, one from the Queen and the other from the Prince and Princess of Wales, written in connection with the sad and premature death of His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence and Avondale, K. G. Mr. Abbott says that both Her Majesty and their Royal Highnesses give expression to their deep sense of the loyalty and affectionate sympathy everywhere manifested by the Queen's subjects on the distressing occasion. Lord Knutsford suggests that the documents in question should finally be deposited with the public records of the several Governments.

DEATH OF ADMIRAL GRAVIER.

Paris, March 5.—Admiral Julien Gravier, of the French Navy, is dead.

PRICE OF PRISON MADE TWICE.

Milwaukee, Minn., March 5.—The Board of Prison Managers, at a regular meeting last evening, fixed the price of prison labor-time at 10 cents a pound. Last year it was sold at 5 cents, but money was lost on every pound manufactured. At 10 cents the Board thinks it will just cover expenses, figuring convict labor at 45 cents a day, and not taking into consideration the wear of machinery, power, etc.

GEN. BARRIOS PRESIDENT OF GUATEMALA.

The Guatemala Consul General in this city has received the following dispatch: General General Barrrios has been declared elected General of the Republic. The National Assembly of the Republic, Perfect peace and tranquility reign throughout the whole country. General Barrrios is "the nephew of his uncle." General Barrrios, who was for a long time President of Guatemala, and whose attempt to unify Central America came to an end with his own life at the battle of Chichigua in 1885. The election of Barrrios proves that the name is still one to conjure with in Guatemala.

RABBI H. P. MENDES SHOT.

SERIOUSLY WOUNDED BY A BEGGAR.

A NARROW ESCAPE FROM DEATH—HE HAD OFFERED TO GIVE HIM ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

The Rev. Dr. Henry Pereira Mendes, one of the most popular and best known Hebrew rabbis in this city, is the latest victim of the disappointed seeker after alms.

A shot fired at him at 7 o'clock last night, by a man whom he had several times befriended, inflicted a wound from which Dr. Mendes is likely to suffer acutely for many months. That it did not immediately prove fatal is no fault of the man who fired it.

For ten years Dr. Mendes has had charge of the handsome synagogue at Nineteenth-st. and Fifth-ave., known as Shearith Israel. This synagogue is supported by the leading Spanish and Portuguese Hebrews of this city. Like most men in his position, Dr. Mendes is constantly worried by hundreds of applications for assistance from poor Hebrews, many of whom make a profession of begging. Among the latter class was Jose Messaschki, a swarthy, dark-eyed, fierce-looking man, who had been in this country for many years, but about whom no one appears to know much. He belonged to Dr. Mendes's congregation, and had several times asked for and obtained relief. This system of begging was apparently his only means of livelihood. He had tried each of the Hebrew synagogues and only a few days ago asked for and obtained from the United Hebrew Charities a ticket to Texas, which he promptly sold.

Lately Dr. Mendes had grown tired of the beggar's importunities, and flatly refused to give him any more money. On Friday afternoon Messaschki called at Dr. Mendes's home, No. 6 West Ninth-st., but was turned out of the house. He was not seen again until last night during the progress of the Saturday night service, when some of the congregation noticed him loitering on the sidewalk outside the synagogue.

Dr. Mendes started for his home at 7 o'clock. With him was Abraham Eissenman, a chorist, who carried some books. Behind them at a few yards' distance was Messaschki. When the Doctor reached his home and stepped into the hall Messaschki ran up the steps behind him, and before Dr. Mendes could close the door, forced his way into the hall. The only persons in the house at that time were Mrs. Mendes, who was upstairs, and Dora Hoffmeyer, Kate Brady and Lena Pichard, three servants, who were in the kitchen. Just what followed after Dr. Mendes and Messaschki got into the hall is not known. The only witness to the shooting is little Eissenman, and he could not be found. The family, too, did their best to obstruct Police Captain Ryan, Detective Sullivan and the police of the Fifteenth Precinct in their efforts to get the facts. It is, however, known that as they entered the hall Messaschki said angrily: "Dr. Mendes, I want a hundred dollars, and want it badly."

Dr. Mendes's reply was a silent blank refusal. Then Mrs. Mendes upstairs and the girls in the kitchen heard the voices of the two men raised in a quarrel, which grew fiercer and fiercer, until the house and the street rang with a pistol shot. Then there was a groan and a heavy fall.

Kate Brady was the first of the girls to recover her self-possession, and she ran upstairs to the hall just as Mrs. Mendes, screaming with fright, ran down from the bedroom. Kate Brady was just in time to see Messaschki's coat as he darted through the door, down the steps of the house and away. Mrs. Mendes saw nothing but her husband who lay groaning in the hall.

"I'm shot," he said faintly, pressing his hand to his abdomen. "I've got my death." Within a few minutes Dr. Partridge, of No. 19 Fifth-ave., and Dr. Dorn, of No. 51 West Tenth-st., were in the house, and the two men were quickly followed by Drs. Ellsworth, Elliott, Ball, Weir and A. Smith. On examination it was found that the bullet had entered the left side of the abdomen, but by some strange chance, had glanced off and embedded itself in the flesh. The doctors decided to extract the bullet at once, and Dr. Mendes, by the influence of ether, was brought to a state of insensibility. The great size of the bullet, which would have sufficed to kill a grizzly bear, showed that the shot had probably been fired from an old-fashioned cavalry pistol.

Dr. Mendes will, in all probability, recover. He is an Englishman, and was born in London where his family for generations have occupied an influential position among the Jewish community. He is short and dark, with handsome, clear-cut, delicate features of a distinctly Spanish type. During his term of service in the synagogue he has won hosts of friends, and he earned distinction by his conscientious and untiring work.

THE BIRCH OUTLOOK IN MINNESOTA.

Washington, March 5.—(Special.)—Minnesota Republicans will make the best effort possible to redeem the State next fall, said R. G. Evans, of the National Committee, to-day. "I think it does the party good to be whipped in 1892, and certainly we were whipped badly enough in 1890 to do us lots of good. Northern people do not realize how much they did surrender until they take a look at the House of Representatives. That body is now a disgrace to the South, the former party being in a position to make a man bluish for his country to see the way they show their contempt for the Supreme Court decision on the matter of counting a quorum. There are enough Republican districts in the North to keep the House of Representatives out of the control of the Tammany and Bourbon element. The public mind is clearer now on the tariff question, and as a consequence more Republicans will be sent to Congress next time. Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and the other Northwestern States owe it to themselves and to the Democratic majority in Congress. I think that Minnesota is good for the Republicans in the 1894 Congress, and it would not surprise me if we carried the entire seven districts."

THE COLDWATER BANK ROBBERY.

Coldwater, Mich., March 5.—Fifteen detectives are here at work upon the bank robbery, but they seem to regard the case a difficult one. Among the goods of private depositors were Philadelphia and Reading preferred (income negotiable bonds of \$1,000 each, numbered from 875 to 899 inclusive, 1,714 to 1,726 inclusive, and 1,733 and 1,734. D. B. Deans, president of the bank, says the bank's loss will be fully \$200,000 and the loss of the valuable papers between \$40,000 and \$50,000. The safe, valued at \$25,000, is completely wrecked. In the summer of 1891 the bank was robbed at noon of the Lewis diamonds, valued at \$10,000, for which John Howard was convicted and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment.

MAYOR HONEY'S SURPRISING DEMAND.

Newport, R. I., March 5.—The present municipal government seems bound to enliven Newport's winter dullness. This afternoon the announcement was made upon the street that Mayor Honey had, in the name of the city, brought suit against the Savings Bank of Newport for the sum of \$150,000 for breach of contract, in refusing to give up \$21,000 of the city's sinking fund held by the bank, which was to have been invested in the new city bonds. It appears that while the first demand met with a refusal to pay except upon two weeks' notice, no further demand was made until the expiration of the time of notice, when the surprise at the turn of affairs. The writ is returnable before the March term of the Supreme Court, and Mayor Honey, who is a lawyer, will appear for the city.

SALTON LAKE REPORTED TO BE RISING.

San Diego, Cal., March 5.—(Special.)—The Salton Lake, in the desert valley of Southern California, which caused widespread comment last year, is again rising, and will probably be larger than the Colorado. The heavy rains of the winter have caused the water in the Gila and Colorado rivers. The frostier season is several months earlier than it was in 1891. Salton Lake now has an area of 145 square miles, and if this body of water is increased, the

native believe that fully 100 miles of the Southern Pacific Railway will be submerged. The valley of Salton Lake is 300 feet below sea level and is known as Death Valley, although several hundred Indians live there in comfort. The ancestors of these Indians lived there before the sea was shut out. Salt and marine deposits are daily seen along the sides of the valley sixty feet above the present level of the lake. The remains of sea-fishing apparatus are still preserved by the Indians. The climate of Southern California towns contiguous to the lake has been distinctly affected by the body of water, as is indicated by cloud bursts, frequent rains, fogs and unusual coolness this winter.

PELHAM W. SHIPMAN COMMITS SUICIDE.

HE SHOOTED HIMSELF IN A CAB IN BALTIMORE.—A SON OF EX-JUDGE SHIPMAN, OF NEW-YORK.

Baltimore, March 5.—(Special.)—Pelham W. Shipman, supposed to be the son of William D. Shipman, of the law firm of Smith, Lamont & Choate, No. 35 Wall-st., New York City, committed suicide here in a cab this afternoon about 5 o'clock. Police Sergeant Rowe, while standing in front of the Carrollton Hotel, was accosted by a cabman, who had just driven up, and informed that a gentleman whom he had had out driving had shot himself. Sergeant Rowe opened the cab door and found lying back on the seat a man with blood streaming down his face. The sergeant immediately telegraphed for an ambulance and the man was taken to the City Hospital. Upon examination a bullet hole was found in his right temple, passing through his head and coming out on the left side.

A revolver was found lying on the floor of the cab. On the body were found three letters, one directed to "Pelham W. Shipman, care of Dr. Lyon, Boulevard and One hundred and seventh-st., West, City," and postmarked New York. The other two letters were written in a different hand, directed "Pelham W. Shipman, City," and signed "Your Affectionate Father." The last two letters were written at No. 22 Calverly New York. An almost fatal bullet wound in the chest and the others were all that was found.

The driver of the cab said that he had been engaged by the man to drive him from the Eutaw House to the Carrollton, and that on the way down Baltimore-st. the shot was fired. He did not hear the shot, or know anything about it until he looked into the cab when in front of the Carrollton Hotel and saw the man lying back on the seat, covered with blood.

At 4 o'clock on Friday morning the man arrived at the Carrollton and registered as R. H. Palmer.

After paying for a night lodging and for breakfast, he retired to a room on the second floor. About 7 o'clock a chambermaid noticed a strong odor of kerosene from his room, and called the bell-boy, who unlocked the door and threw open the windows. The employees of the hotel had noticed that the man acted strangely.

Mr. Shipman died last night. The authorities have communicated with his New York friends.

IS IT A PLOT AGAINST MR. ARMOUR?

POISONED WINE SAID TO HAVE BEEN SENT TO HIM—HE IS NOT PRETENDING.

Chicago, March 5.—(Special.)—It was reported this morning that an attempt had been made to kill P. D. Armour by sending him a bottle of poisoned wine. James B. Fitzgerald, so it was said, formerly in the employ of Armour, stayed at a hotel in North Clark-st. last Thursday night, and during the night had two men talking in the next room very earnestly. He put his ear to the keyhole and heard them plot to kill P. D. Armour by proposing to send him a bottle of poisoned wine. A letter was to be sent with the bottle purporting to be from Potter Palmer. Yesterday the bottle was sent to Mr. Armour's house on Prairie-ave., with the Palmer letter. The messenger boy said he had received the bottle at the office on Wabash-ave.

Inquiry at the Armour office in the Home Insurance Building this morning, seemed to show that the story is largely a "fake," though the bottle was actually received. P. D. Armour, who is now in Baltimore, refused a statement of the affair. Mr. Fitzgerald said: "Mr. Armour is paying no attention to this matter. The bottle was received as the paper states; also with it came a note purporting to be from Potter Palmer, promising the good qualities of the wine and dilating on its rarity. The bottle is out at the house but has not been analyzed, so we don't know whether or not it contains poison. No attention will be paid to this rumor. It is a stupid story, and Mr. Armour is not worried for fear of his life by any means, and takes no notice of such foolishness."

WHAT YACHT SEEN IN THIS?

A MESSAGE FROM THE SEA TELLING OF A DISASTER OFF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Washington, March 5.—Superintendent Kimball to-day received a message from Henry Etheridge, at New Head Life-saving station, North Carolina, saying that the following note in a bottle, was picked up on the beach near the station, last night:

"Sunday, p. m., about 3 o'clock. Our yacht is sinking, and we cannot possibly keep afloat more than half an hour longer. Our boat is the Siren (name in distinct), G. W. Smith, William D. Shipman, and J. B. Clark, under whose names the words 'Good bye' are written."

Manning's register gives five yachts named Siren. There is the schooner-yacht Siren, owned by J. K. Emmet, and hailing from New York; the ship Siren, owned by A. J. Clark and William King, of Dorchester, Mass.; the ship-yacht Siren, owned by F. H. Thompson, of Savannah; the ship Siren, owned by Howard J. Scamblay, of Sydney; and the ship Siren, owned by William Sutter, of Jersey City. The Siren owned by Clark and King is a 41-foot boat, of shallow draught, and may have been cruising in southern waters. Mr. Emmet's boat is an 82-foot schooner, but it is thought that she is not in commission. The most probable Siren is the 20-foot schooner owned by F. H. Thompson, of Savannah. It is more probable, however, that the Siren was one of those ghastly practical jokes which weak-minded people sometimes play, purporting to come from mythical ships and signed by mythical people.

A DISTRESSED SCHOONER RESCUED.

Jacksonville, Fla., March 5.—The tugboat Mabey, of this port, while on her way from Cuba a few days ago, rescued a distressed schooner, and brought her safely to port. The schooner, L. I. Hazard, of New York, was wrecked, thirty-five days out from Georgetown, S. C., for New York, with a cargo of resin and turpentine. The Hazard had encountered heavy weather and was driven off her course. She had been drifting southward for many days and was short of provisions. For eight days the crew had had nothing but rice to eat and there was only one quart of this left when she was picked up. The crew were in a state of starvation. Captain Brewster is getting prepared to send the schooner to the Bermudas when the Mabey took her in tow and brought her into New York last night. Captain Brewster is getting prepared to send the schooner to the Bermudas when the Mabey took her in tow and brought her into New York last night. While the vessel was drifting southward a sailor fell from the rigging and died from the injuries received. The body was sunk in the ocean.

DOCTORS HAVE THEIR ANNUAL DINNER.

The sixth annual dinner of the Alumni Association of the Northern Dispensary was held last night at Clark's. Dr. Janeway presided and toasts were responded to by Drs. Coffin, Titus, Knell and Devlin. Among those present were Drs. F. M. Banta, Bates, Shappel, J. R. Gotham, Harrison, Melling, Bushong, William B. Linn, Mead, D. Brush and Porter.

HANSACKING A CITY CLERK'S OFFICE.

The office of Thomas Barker, Clerk of Long Island City, was entered on Friday night and the closets and desks subjected to a general overturning. It is supposed that the intruders were in search of Treasurer's records. The records were found and the search of Treasurer's records was made and the report of the Jackson Avenue Improvement Commission, which disappeared from the desks of the Common Council on Tuesday evening, and which Blackman's friends say is in the possession of Mayor Gleason. The Mayor vigorously denies all knowledge of the missing documents.

SALISBURY'S PROPOSITION.

DANGERS OF THE THIRTY-MILE LIMIT IN BEHRING SEA.

MR. BLAINE'S CONSISTENT OPPOSITION TO SUCH FRUITLESS RESTRICTIONS ON SEALING.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, March 5.—The situation growing out of Lord Salisbury's refusal to renew the modus vivendi of last year, pending a settlement of the Behring Sea dispute before an international board of arbitration, is by people competent to speak with authority upon the subject looked upon as a serious one, serious enough to cut short the President's outing and hasten his return to Washington. As to the motives which prompt Lord Salisbury to refuse his assent to a proposition so obviously fair and so manifestly necessary if the seal rookeries of the Pribyloff Islands are to be preserved, no explanation is vouchsafed in official quarters. In the absence of the President, and with Mr. Blaine confined to his house by an attack of influenza, the State Department maintains a dignified silence. Of conjectures there are many as to the cause of Lord Salisbury's churlish attitude. Among the many offered, no single one is probably entirely correct, but sufficient truth is contained in each to enable one to discern with reasonable accuracy the workings of Lord Salisbury's mind. It is all summed up in the word "Canada." The attitude of Canada in this matter is that an impertinent and irresponsible youngster hiding behind the broad back of an indignant parent. It is the reprisal which Canada takes for failing to break into the markets of the United States, the echo of abortive attacks to invade the United States into one-sided reciprocity agreements.

As to the course which the Administration will pursue under the circumstances it is difficult to hazard anything more than a guess. Quite likely there may be a special meeting of the Cabinet early next week to decide the whole matter. At such a meeting it may be determined to execute the law irrespective of consequences. The law in question is to be found in Sections 1,956-1,971 of the Revised Statutes. These sections enjoin upon the President the duty of seizing unlawful sealers and their vessels within the limits of Behring Sea. The Cabinet may think it best, on the other hand, to refer the whole subject to Congress, a proceeding which would be tantamount to asking for instructions.

The most natural course, however, would be to send the treaty signed last Monday promptly to the Senate, advising that body of what has occurred and suggesting an amendment of the treaty providing for a renewal of the modus vivendi, pending settlement of the dispute before the board of arbitration. This amended treaty would be returned to Lord Salisbury. It might then be incumbent upon him to declare his objections to a proposition which is nothing more and nothing less than the embodiment of